

REMARKS:

This is a full and complete response to the Office Action of July 10, 2008. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REGARDING THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 31 have been amended with support found at least in the embodiment shown in Figs. 17-18 and 22-23. Support for the amendment to claim 31 can also be found in paragraph [0133]. No new matter has been added.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

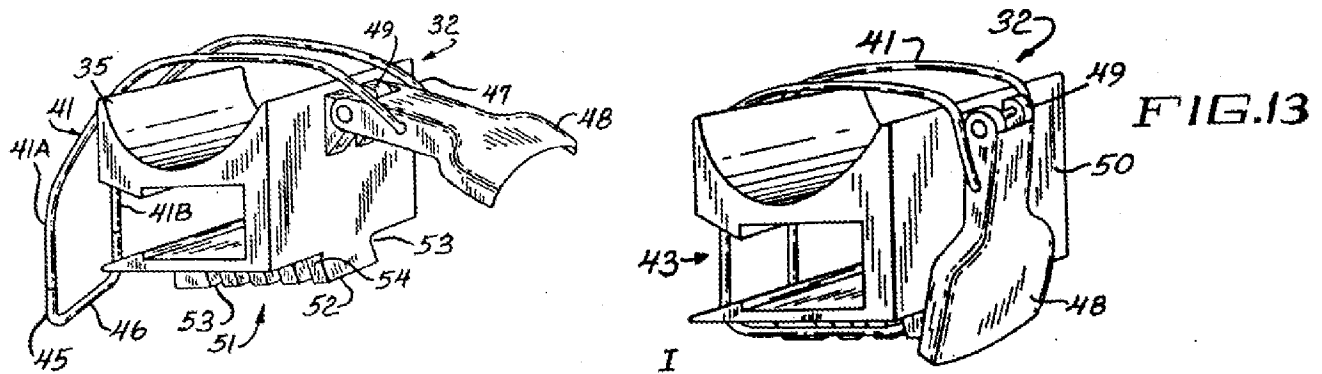
Applicants respectfully note that the independent claims previously recited a “through-passage comprising at least two spaced apart and aligned apertures.” The Examiner took the position that **Johansson**, US 5,052,605 and **Colley**, US 5,769,556 each teach cradles with a through-passage for an elongated arm having apertures on each end of the through-passage. Applicants have now clarified the independent claims to recite “at least two spaced apart and aligned through-passages.” Applicants provide further remarks as follows.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Johansson:

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 20, and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by **Johansson**. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited reference **Johansson** does not disclose or suggest at least this recitation and therefore does not anticipate the present claims.

Johannson is directed to an attachment arrangement for a cycle or some other load. *Johannson*, Col. 1, lines 4-12. The device of **Johannson** as shown in figures 12 and 13 of the reference and is provided as follows for convenience



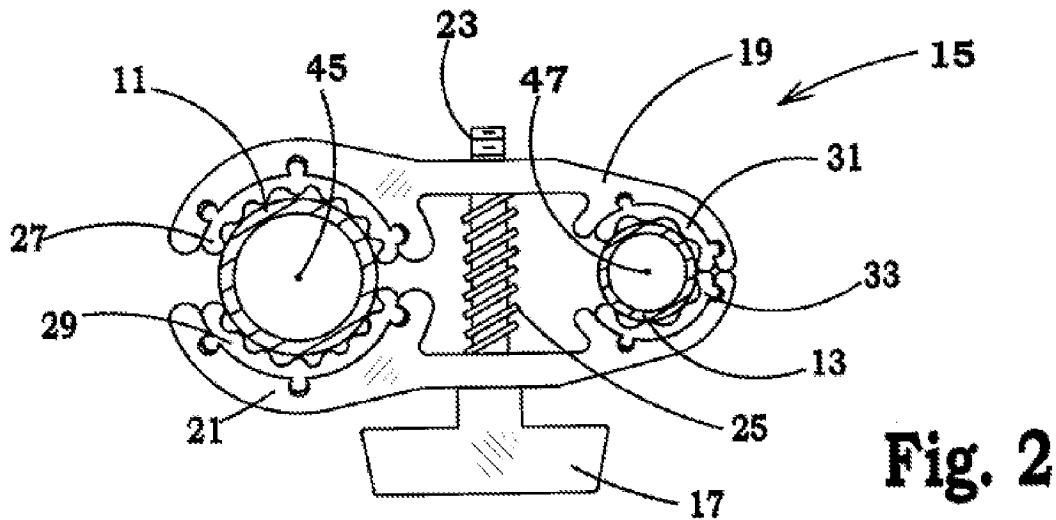
As can be seen above, attachment element 32 has a recess 35 for accommodating a cycle wheel. *Johannson, Col. 3, line 66 to Col. 4, line 8.* Attachment element 32 also has a clamping device 41 which would bridge the opening 43 as well as any wheel on the device. *Johannson, Col. 3, line 66 to Col. 4, line 8.* The attachment can be applied to a supporting bar by means of the opening 43. *Johannson, Col. 4, lines 40-46.* Even if the device of **Johannson** were to be considered an anchor or cradle, it comprises only one opening 43.

As the present claims recite a cradle in claims 1 and 4 and an anchor in claim 2 having “at least two spaced apart and aligned through-passages,” the device of **Johannson** does not disclose or suggest the present claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Colley:

Claims 1-16, 18, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by **Colley**, US 5,769,556. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner alleges that **Colley** discloses a load carrier arrangement for transporting a bicycle with a frame assembly adapted to be mounted to a carrying vehicle and having an elongate arm 11 configured to receive a bicycle cradle. For convenience, Applicants provide Figure 2 of **Colley** as follows:



With respect to the above figure, the Examiner further alleges that **Colley** discloses a through-passage near 21 in which an elongate arm is received. Additionally, in discussing claims 6-8, the Examiner indicated that **Colley** discloses apertures near 27 and 29 in Figure 2.

Applicants respectfully assert that **Colley** does not disclose the recitation in the present claims of “at least two spaced apart and aligned through-passages.” As can be seen in the above figure, even if the area near 21 were considered a through-passage it is not spaced apart and aligned with any other through-passage. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert the **Colley** does not disclose or suggest the present claims and request the above mentioned rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 30/8/7/6 and 30/8/7/1/ stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Claims 17/16/6, 17/16/3, 17/16/1, 19/18/6, 19/18/3, and 19/18/1 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Colley** in view of Newbold et al., US 4,830,250 (“**Newbold**”). Claims 22/20/6, 22/20/3, and 22/20/1 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Johansson** in view of **Colley**. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully re-assert the remarks made above with respect to **Colley**. **Colley** does not disclose or suggest apertures which are in series and sufficiently longitudinally aligned

in a non-transporting configuration to facilitate variable longitudinal positioning. Neither **Newbold** nor **Johansson** remedy such defect in disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the above mentioned rejection be withdrawn.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7298.125.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Novak Druce + Quigg LLP
1000 Louisiana, Fifty-Third Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 571-3400
(713) 456-2836 (fax)
Tracy.Druce@novakdruce.com
Jason.Bryan@novakdruce.com

Respectfully submitted,

/Jason W. Bryan/

Jason W. Bryan
Reg. No. 51,505